A White-Tailed Deer Awl as a Funerary Offering in a Preclassic Burial in the Basin of Mexico

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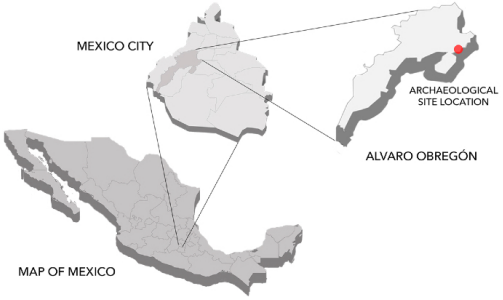
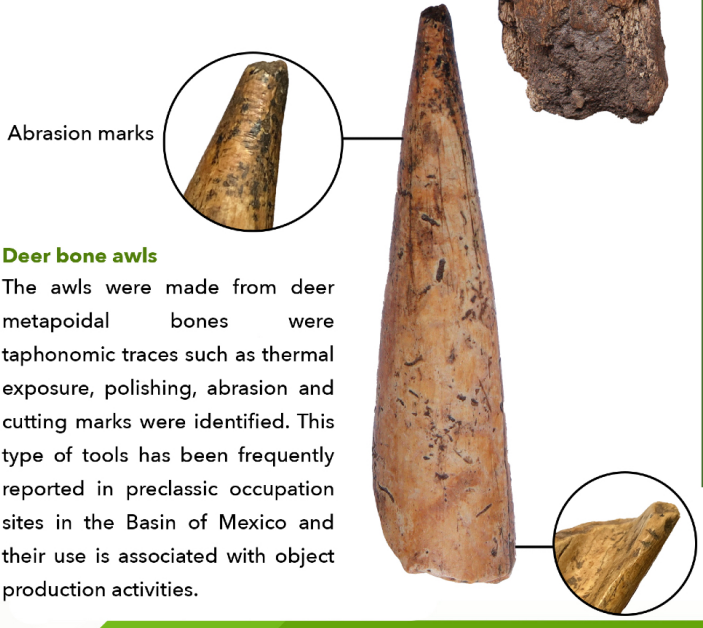
Location

At the beginning of the year 2023 an archaeological salvage project was carried out in the south of Mexico City, Mexico, 400m from the archaeological site of Copilco. During the excavations carried out in the Insurgentes Sur 2462 archaeological salvage project, a human settlement associated with the Preclassic period (Zacatenco Phase 700-400 BC and Ticomán 400-200 BC) was recorded.



Archaeological Context

During the excavations, a truncated cone-shaped structure was found, inside which a human burial was deposited and an offering composed of fragments of figurines and ceramic vessels belonging to the same period, as well as two awls made from white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) bone.



Deer bone awls

The awls were made from deer metapoidal bones were taphonomic traces such as thermal exposure, polishing, abrasion and cutting marks were identified. This type of tools has been frequently reported in preclassic occupation sites in the Basin of Mexico and their use is associated with object production activities.

Source: Salvamento Arqueológico Insurgentes Sur 2462, Álvaro Obregón, CDMX. Dirección de Salvamento Arqueológico -INAH